

EVERGLADES

FLORIDA

ISSUE SUMMARY:

The EPA works in partnership with the public, the state of Florida, the Seminole and Miccosukee Indian Tribes, the agricultural community, local governments, and federal agencies to ensure the protection, restoration and long-term sustainability of the Everglades. This requires finding consensus among urban, agricultural and environmental protection interests while providing clean water, water supply, and flood control for 10 million residents. Statutory authorities include the Clean Water Act (CWA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA).

BACKGROUND:

- EPA provides CWA grants to the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Indians for protecting drinking water supplies, protecting their natural areas, and developing water quality standards to protect human health and the environment.
- EPA participates in NEPA planning, and comments on environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for projects with significant federal actions.
- EPA coordinates efforts with the Jacksonville U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) District and South Florida Water Management District for planning and implementation activities associated with Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) implementation. CERP projects provide for the water quantity, quality, timing and distribution needs of the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries, and Tribal areas in the Western Everglades.
- EPA supports CWA Section 404 implementation, including wetlands conservation, permitting, dredge and fill and mitigation banking strategies with the USACE.
- EPA participates in collaborative efforts through interagency workgroups, including the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and Working Group, and the Everglades Water Quality Restoration Strategies Principals.
- EPA works with the State of Florida on the 2012 Water Quality Restoration Strategies to address phosphorus pollution and provide the very low phosphorus levels needed to protect the Everglades. This includes tracking progress on the NPDES permits and consent orders, including phosphorus discharge limits and \$880 M of corrective actions. EPA and Florida meet biannually to track progress and identify concerns.
- EPA's Everglades Regional Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program has monitored the health of the Everglades for 20 years, with results used by Florida, the Miccosukee Tribe, the agricultural community, federal agencies and many others to document water quality and environmental improvements from Everglades restoration activities and efforts to control mercury and phosphorus.

KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Congress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> States | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribes | <input type="checkbox"/> Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Federal Agency |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NGO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Governments | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (name of stakeholder) | | | |

MOVING FORWARD:

- The Moreno CD is focused on addressing phosphorus enrichment and assuring that federal interests in Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades National Park have water clean enough to protect these sensitive and unique natural resources. Although EPA is not a principal in the CD other agencies may request from EPA guidance on CWA issues.

